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"Happy Thanksgiving!"

Thursday, Nov. 23, 2006



(Photo by Sgt. Marcus Butler, 4th BCT 25th Inf. Div.)

Marco?

A paratrooper from the 4th Brigade Combat Team (ABN), 25th Infantry Division, makes his way through a field in Iraq, during an escort mission for this brigade commander, Col. Michael Garrett, south of Baghdad.

Baghdad Banquet

Prior prep key to successful Turkey Day

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Thanksgiving Day has historically been the biggest meal military dining facilities serve around the globe. This year's banquet in Baghdad will be no exception.

"We spent nearly \$12 million on food for the troops in November," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Shawn Malinowski, the Multi-National Division - Baghdad's command food advisor. "About \$4 million of that went just for Thanksgiving."

With nearly 50,000 hungry troops to feed for the holiday, Malinowski said food orders were place six months in advance to ensure delivery from stateside sources.

"It's all USDA-approved," said the Philadelphia native. "It's the responsibility of the food service section to order for the next year's holiday meals.

"The 4th Infantry Division took care of us this time," he added. "We'll take care of them next year."

The amount of food shipped in for Turkey Day this year is staggering: 40,000 lbs of turkey; 30,000 lbs of ham; 10,000 lbs of shrimp (from shrimp cocktail); 500 cases of cranberry sauce; and 1,000 pumpkin pies.

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Strength in unity:

Giving thanks for team spirit

By Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr. Commanding Gen. MND-B

Thanksgiving is the second most celebrated American holiday, taking a back seat only to our Independence Day.

Dating back to the pilgrims, we give thanks for the plenty we enjoy and the friends and family who sit around our tables.

Even though we are thousands of miles from our own families and loved ones, I believe that we are forming our own family here in the Iraqi capital, made up of military members from every service and several different coalition partner nations.

I am thankful for the service and sacrifice that each of you makes - for the betterment of the Iraqi people and the

security of your nation.

We are brothers and sisters in arms. We will forge a tight-knit bond throughout our formations, and we fill face down a cowardly terrorist element in Baghdad which hopes to rule the Iraqi people through fear and intimidation.

On this day, normally spent with friends and family in the comforts of our homes, I thank you all, the service members of the Multi-National Division - Baghdad, for your dedication. You represent the best of American ideals and you are the guardians of freedom.

To our families back home, I am thankful for the steadfast support of our Soldiers. Being separated during special occasions is difficult, and not only for the serv-



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Rose, 7MPAD)

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.

Commanding Gen., MND-B
ice member.

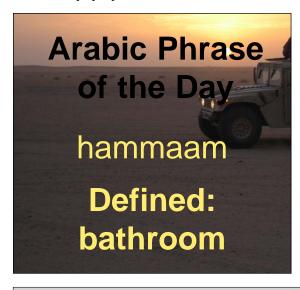
It is my hope that no one spends this holiday alone. We owe it to each other to come together as a family. I am confident that our Family Readiness Groups and rear detachment leaders have made every effort to reach out to our loved ones.

I am thankful that we care for one another.

Pride filled my soul as I unfurled the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division here at Camp Liberty Nov. 15. That brief 45-minute ceremony saw the division take on the mantle as the Multi-National Division - Baghdad, and the responsibility for the most hotly-contested bit of real estate in Iraq.

I firmly believe that the coming year will be a decisive one for our military here in Iraq, and a turning point for the Iraqi people. We have a great team. It's our team. It's the First Team!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Iraq 3-Day Forcast



Today

High: 67 Low: 44



Tomorrow

High: 70 Low: 48



Saturday

High: 70 Low: 51

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr. Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl

Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen

NCOIC, Print Production: Staff Sgt. Mary Rose

Editor: Sgt. Michael Garrett

Contributing Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma,

Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. Shea Butler, Pfc. William Hatton

Contributing Writers: Sgt. Jon Cupp

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail *david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil*.

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Chefs ready to feed 50,000 on Thanksgiving

Turkey From Page 1

"Thanksgiving showcases our culinary skills," said Sgt. Maj. Terry Stewart, MND-B's food service sergeant major and Malinowski's right-hand man. "It's a traditional day for Americans to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. Soldiers appreciate our efforts. It reminds them of home."

While orders were sent out months ago, Stewart said cooks at the contracted dining facilities have been working on Thanksgiving Day meal preparations since the first week of November.

The South Hampton, N.Y.,

native said many hours go into the presentation of the meal, with special features like ice carvings, cornucopias and ginger bread houses setting the mood in each dining facility.

"Plus, preparing the meal takes some time," Stewart "It's definitely more food than you'd even find at Grandma's."

Stewart said the menu at each dining facility within MND-B's area will be the same.

He said the goal is to get a hot Thanksgiving Day meal to every Soldier within the divi-

"All the patrol bases will have their meals sent out to them," Stewart said.



Tuan Sinnen, a pastry chef at the Pegasus Sports Oasis on Camp Liberty, Iraq, shows off the cake he crafted for Thanksgiving Day Nov. 21. Sinnen, who is from Sri Lanka, has been working prior to the holiday to assure everything is ready for Turkey Day.



(Photos by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Biswas Emajaddin (left), assistant executive chef, and Raju Madhraveni, cook, who both work for the Pegasus Sports Oasis on Camp Liberty, Iraq, smoke Thanksgiving turkeys for the troops Nov. 21.

Ironhorse boots hit the ground in Iraq

By Sgt. Jon Cupp 1st BCT Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Soldiers of the Fort Hood, Texas-based 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division have arrived in Iraq.

Over the past few weeks, the brigade's nearly 4,500 Soldiers have been moving into their areas of responsibility (AOR) here as they take over for their counterparts in the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division.

According to senior officials within the brigade, their goal during their one-year rotation will be to work with the Iraqi people to provide a safe, secure and stable environment inside their AOR for the Iraqis.

For Capt. Marvin Ross, commander for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment and a native of Channelview, Texas, his battery's mission involves three

responsibilities: counter-fire missions, acting as tower guards and providing gate security.

Ross said he hopes his Soldiers take away some important life lessons from their mission here to include the reason why they are currently serving overseas.

"I hope they take to heart the fact that we're here to make a difference as we assist the Iraqi government and Iraqi security forces and see them through to their goal of becoming a legitimate, governed state," said Ross.

"Once we complete the transfer of authority (with the 4th Int. Div.), we'll get into a regular rhythm or battle routine," added Ross. "As we keep busy, eventually the time will fly by for the Soldiers."

In the meantime, Ross's troops and other Soldiers in the brigade, have been getting settled into their two-person trailers, which serve as their living quarters, and into their work areas. In



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1st BCT Public Affairs)

Soldiers from the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., pull their duffle bags from a bus shortly after their arrival on Camp Taji, Iraq. Their arrival marks the beginning of their one year tour in Iraq.

the next few weeks, Soldiers will continue unloading their equipment and starting their missions which will include patrols throughout the AOR.

The rotation marks the second time that Fort Hood, Texas native, Sgt. Chester Temple, a unit supply specialist with Battery A, has served in Iraq.

"I hope to learn how to run the logistical aspects of my job better during the wartime experience," said Temple, who currently has a brother returning from Iraq with the 4th Inf. Div. and another brother serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq.

Before leaving for Iraq, Temple's father who retired after 24 years in the Army and served in both Vietnam and Grenada had some parting advice for his three sons who have all served in Iraq.

"He told us to 'Keep your head down, but keep your butt lower!" said Temple.

Some of the younger

Soldiers pulling their first tours in Iraq said they look forward to their mission and that they will be looking out for one another.

"I want to make sure that I get home alive and that everyone else comes home alive," said Pfc. Adam Boland, a gun truck diver for Company A, 115th Brigade Support Battalion.

Boland, a native of Minetonka, Minn., will be spending his time in Iraq pulling security during convoy operations.

Portland, Ore. native Pfc. Joshua Drummond, is a fire direction control specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 82nd FA Regt. who will work as a radio telephone operator during his tour. He echoed similar Boland's sentiments.

"I hope that we can make things safer for the people who come here after we're gone," he said.

